



District of Columbia Pretrial Services Agency

Information Release

New PSA Internal Treatment Program to Launch

Effective February 2, 2009, the DC Pretrial Services Agency (PSA) will launch a six-month pilot program to be known as *PSA Support, Treatment, & Addiction Recovery Services (PSA STARS)*. PSA STARS will marshal the treatment expertise of Drug Court and New Directions case managers to staff a single unified internal treatment program. Defendants will continue to be supervised in either Drug Court or New Directions, but when receiving treatment internally will do so within PSA STARS¹. The criteria and procedures for placing defendants in Drug Court and New Directions have not changed—only how, where, and when they receive treatment. Currently, most defendants in these two programs are treated in separate internal PSA groups facilitated by case managers from their respective programs. With this change, most defendants requiring intensive outpatient or regular outpatient treatment will receive that treatment within PSA STARS, regardless of their supervision program assignment.

The creation of PSA STARS represents a significant enhancement in PSA's internal treatment program. It will: (1) provide more effective group treatment that is better matched to the increasingly complex risks and needs of the defendant population; (2) improve defendant compliance with court ordered release conditions; and (3) allow more defendants to be safely released from detention, even when costly residential treatment may be less available.

PSA STARS will offer targeted therapy groups for young adults; those with extensive criminal involvement; those more likely to be chemically addicted; and those in the first phase of treatment who may be resistant to treatment. It will offer gender specific groups for both females and males, specialty groups focusing on health and wellness, interactive drug education groups, rotating life skills seminars, and introduction to Twelve Step and other support groups. PSA STARS will also include a contractor-led co-occurring disorders (COD) program that will be available to defendants with both relatively stable mental health issues and substance use disorder, including, but not limited, to some of those assigned to the Specialized Supervision Unit. The COD

¹ Most defendants assigned to the PSA Sanction Based Treatment Track who need intensive outpatient or outpatient treatment will also be treated within PSA STARS.

program will offer therapy groups, illicit and psychotropic drug education groups, and gender-specific trauma recovery groups. PSA STARS will take slightly longer to complete and will require significantly more weekly treatment hours in all four phases of the IOP component, as compared to our current programs. The hours required for the COD Program are individualized and will vary between two and nine hours per week.

Tabled below are the PSA STARS intensive outpatient and outpatient group requirements compared to the requirements currently in place. The PSA STARS requirements will apply only to defendants placed in Drug Court, New Directions, and Sanctioned Based Treatment Track on or after February 2, 2009. The current requirements will continue to apply to defendants placed before February 2, 2009, unless they choose to participate in the full program.

New PSA STARS Intensive Outpatient Requirements	Current Intensive Outpatient Requirements	New PSA STARS Outpatient Requirements	Current Outpatient Requirements
Phase One 12 hours per week 5 weeks	Phase One 9 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase One 6 hours per week 5 weeks	Phase One 6 hours per week 4 weeks
Phase Two 9 hours per week 6 weeks	Phase Two 6 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Two 4.5 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Two 3 hours per week 4 weeks
Phase Three 9 hours per week 6 weeks	Phase Three 3 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Three 4.5 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Three 3 hours per week 4 weeks
Phase Four 6 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Four 3 hours per week 4 to 8 weeks	Phase Four 3 hours per week 4 weeks	Phase Four 3 hours per week 4 to 8 weeks

After the six-month pilot, PSA will evaluate the program, publish our findings for review by our stakeholders, and make adjustments to the program design if necessary. Please contact Morris Williams, PSA Clinical Services Specialist, at 202-220-5593, for additional information.